



ENERGY STAR® Labeled Homes

Update

November 2001



News to Know

New Partner Recognition Program

Based on feedback from many of our partners, ENERGY STAR is implementing a new set of awards designed to better reflect the achievements of our ENERGY STAR partners.

Achievement Awards: Under our new recognition program, engraved plaque awards will be given to builders, providers, raters, and local sponsors (e.g. utilities, state programs) that achieve specific levels of accomplishment. Awards will be given to partners who achieve a threshold number of ENERGY STAR labeled homes built, rated, or sponsored each year (50, 150, and 300 homes for builders and raters; and 250, 500, and 1000 homes for providers and sponsoring programs).

Note: There will be no application package associated with these awards, as awards will be given based solely on data submitted to ENERGY STAR by ratings providers. These awards were announced at the Energy and Environment Building Association (EEBA) Conference in October. (See right column).

ENERGY STAR Excellence in New Homes Awards:

ENERGY STAR's Excellence in New Homes Awards recognize outstanding accomplishments and special initiatives by partners that help transform large regional markets to ENERGY STAR. Partners who will be considered for this award include builders, rating providers, home energy raters, utilities, program sponsors, and lenders who can demonstrate significant contributions toward furthering the goals of ENERGY STAR on a national or regional scale.

These awards will be announced at ENERGY STAR's annual awards banquet and reception will be held in Washington D.C. on March 26, 2002.

Application packages are available on the ENERGY STAR Web site. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than January 5, 2002. Additional information is available at www.energystar.gov.

Note: the application deadline listed on the web site is December 17, 2001 but we will continue to accept applications until January 5, 2002.

100% Builder Commitment Option

ENERGY STAR builder partners interested in receiving special recognition now have the option of committing to build and label 100% of their new homes to meet ENERGY STAR performance guidelines. Partners making this commitment will be denoted with a special 100% icon on the ENERGY STAR for Homes Web site locator map and will receive a framed certificate of recognition from EPA for their commitment. Note that for this recognition to begin, a builder must have more than one ENERGY STAR labeled home submitted by their ratings provider.

New builder partners wishing to make this commitment can simply initial the 100% commitment option on our ENERGY STAR for Homes Partnership Agreement. Existing builder partners can make the 100% commitment on our Web site's 100% commitment page, www.energystar.gov/homes/100percent. You can also contact your account manager for further information.



2001 ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes Achievement Awards, Announced at the Energy and Environment Building Association (EEBA) Conference in October 2001.

Builders with > 300 labeled homes in the past year:

Best Homes (IN)
Continental Homes (AZ)
Emerald Builders (TX)
Newmark Home Corp (TX)
Pulte Homes - Nevada (NV)

Builders with 150 - 300 labeled homes in the past year:

Beazer Homes of Arizona (AZ)
Bloomington Courtyards Town Homes (IA)
Bob Ward Companies (MD)
Bruce Gunstra Builders Inc (IN)
Fox & Jacobs by Centex Homes of Orlando (FL)
John Laing Homes (CA)
Medallion Construction (TX)
Midland Homes (IA)
Pardee Construction (NV)
Pulte Homes - Tucson Division (AZ)
Shea Homes (CA)

Builders with 150 labeled homes in the past year:

Atlantic Design & Construction (FL)
Barry Andrews Homes (MD)
Bosgraaf Builders (MI)
David Powers Homes (TX)
Ence Homes (UT)
Frank Robino Associates, Inc. (DE)
Griffin Communities (CA)
Hans Hagen Homes (MN)
HI-TECH HOUSING INC (IL)
Homeowner's Rehab Incorporated (MA)
Ideal Homes (OK)
Mission Main Limited Partnership (MA)
Regency Builders (IA)
RPM Contracting, L.L.C. (NJ)
The Lee Group Incorporated (CA)

Awards for providers, raters, and sponsoring programs will be presented at the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Conference in Coco Beach Florida, March 4 - 6 2002.

Program Developments

New Threshold for ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes in California

Beginning January 1, 2002, qualifying levels for ENERGY STAR labeled homes within the state of California will be referenced to the state energy code as embodied in the latest Title-24 requirements (effective June 1, 2001). Upon that date, any home that is 15 percent above Title-24 standards for its relevant climate zone is eligible for ENERGY STAR certification, provided:

The energy budget for the home is calculated using the California Energy Commission-approved computer method.

The home is verified using a home energy rating system (HERS) approved by the California Energy Commission (i.e., California Home Energy Efficiency Rating System). This verification may also use an approved sampling process per California Energy Commission rules.

Homes may be certified to meet the new ENERGY STAR threshold prior to January 1, 2002 as long as HERS analyses are performed to document at least 15 percent energy savings compared to the latest Title-24 requirements.

Homes permitted under the 1998 Title 24 standards and under construction as of December 31, 2001 can be certified using the old ENERGY STAR threshold until December 31, 2002. The only exception to the time limit in this provision is if the homes in question:

- are being built under binding agreements with utility-sponsored efficiency programs that provide incentives based on reaching or exceeding ENERGY STAR qualifying efficiency levels; AND
- such program agreements allow completion of such homes after December 31, 2002 to qualify for such incentives.

Under these circumstances, ENERGY STAR will honor the agreements between the utilities and their constituent builders and apply the applicable termination dates outlined in the utility-builder agreements,

provided such agreements expire on or before December 31, 2003. However, should the builder choose to terminate their agreement with the utility, but still wish to apply for ENERGY STAR certification, then this exemption no longer applies.

ENERGY STAR Labels for New Homes

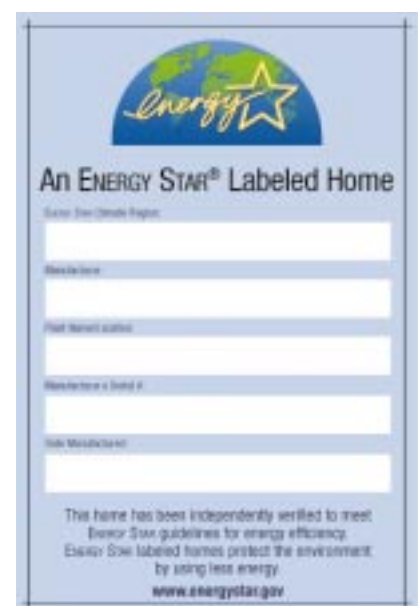
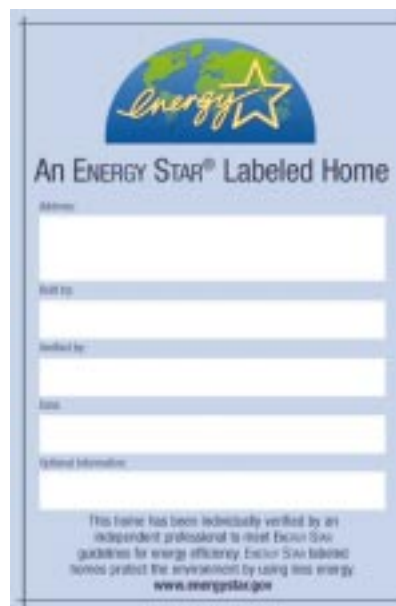
We are happy to announce that the new ENERGY STAR for homes labels have been sent to all accredited providers for use. ENERGY STAR developed self-adhesive labels to replace paper certificates as the primary mechanism for labeling homes. Paper certificates will be a supplemental option to builders and consumers, but may only be used in addition to the new label.

ENERGY STAR recommends putting the label on the utility box cover inside the home. However, the builder and provider may exercise discretion in placement of the label. It should be noted that the ENERGY STAR label is not weather-proof and should not be posted in a location that is exposed to the elements. Also, the label must not be placed to imply that a particular product (such as windows, air conditioners, or thermostats) meets ENERGY STAR labeling requirements.

"Homing In" on Energy Efficiency in Indianapolis

EPA and Energy Rated Homes Midwest just completed the first Indianapolis Homes Show and Tour. The show, held October 6-7, featured information about the entire range of ENERGY STAR programs including home improvement, labeled products, lighting, appliances, and labeled homes. Preceding the show, a press event featured information about ENERGY STAR labeled homes and was shown on the 5pm news. WIBC's Pat Sullivan featured live interviews during the show. Fifteen builders, 4 utilities, and a host of appliance manufacturers and service and product providers attended. The show kicked off the Indianapolis Energy Office's Energy Awareness month, and a month long tour of ENERGY STAR labeled homes spanning the Indianapolis metropolitan area.

You can get more information by visiting www.energystarhomesmidwest.com.



Program Developments



Regional Account Managers

**Northeast - CT, ME, MA, NH,
RI, VT, NJ, NY**

Jon Passe: 202-564-9793,
passe.jonathan@epa.gov

Mid Atlantic - DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

Garrett Fitzgerald: 703-934-3149,
gfitzgerald@icfconsulting.com

**Southeast - AL, FL, GA, KY,
MS, NC, SC, TN**

Garrett Fitzgerald: 703-934-3149,
gfitzgerald@icfconsulting.com

**Midwest - IL, IN, MI, MN, OH,
WI, IA, KS, MO, NE**

Sam Klein: 703-934-3848,
sklein@icfconsulting.com

South Central - AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

John Ashe: 713-942-9418,
jashe@icfconsulting.com

Southwest - AZ, HI, NV

Marc Milin: 703-934-3153,
mmilin@icfconsulting.com

**Northwest - CO, MT, ND, SD, UT,
WY, AK, ID, OR, WA**

Garrett Fitzgerald: 703-934-3149,
gfitzgerald@icfconsulting.com

California - CA

Scott Thigpen: (858) 527-0450 x101,
sthigpen@drintl.com

ENERGY STAR Initiates "Change"

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman unveiled a new public awareness campaign calling on Americans to protect our environment for future generations by changing to energy efficient products and practices. The new ENERGY STAR campaign, "Change," educates consumers and businesses about ways they can achieve energy efficiency, save money and help protect the environment.

The two-year campaign includes television, radio and print public service announcements that emphasize specific actions consumers and businesses can take to use energy more efficiently.

The PSAs will be sent to top media markets around the country and over 5,000 daily and weekly newspapers. In addition, the campaign will reach out to Americans through national consumer and trade magazines and national and regional business publications. The campaign also features radio spots in English and Spanish. In an effort to underscore the importance of this national initiative, the Administrator will participate in events throughout November to highlight "Change."

To learn how you can participate in this public awareness campaign, visit www.energystar.gov/change.

ENERGY STAR Home Sealing Initiative for Existing Homes Launched

This month ENERGY STAR is launching a new building envelope improvement initiative to help homeowners achieve energy savings and cost savings, while increasing the comfort of their home. This new initiative is called ENERGY STAR Home Sealing and is intended for homeowners considering improvements to their home.

ENERGY STAR Home Sealing is designed to give homeowners a clear set of recommendations on how they can improve their home's envelope using a building systems approach. The initiative recommends that homeowners add insulation where cost effective and seal air leaks to stop drafts and get the full performance out of their insulation. In addition, homeowners should choose ENERGY STAR labeled windows when replacing old windows to save energy and money. With these changes, homeowners can see savings of up to 20% on their heating and cooling bills.

For "handy" homeowners, there are several "do-it-yourself" measures that the Home Sealing initiative suggests, such as caulking and weather stripping doors and windows and adding insulation to the attic. However, for optimum results, ENERGY STAR recommends that homeowners seek the assistance of a home energy professional and/or contractor in their area to conduct initial diagnostic tests, make the upgrades, and perform combustion safety testing after air sealing work is completed.

For more information about ENERGY STAR Home Sealing, to get a copy of the Home Sealing technical specification, or to learn about other ENERGY STAR home improvement initiatives and on-line tools, please visit www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement or call Doug Anderson at EPA, #202.564.3532.

Program Developments

New Policy: Links from ENERGY STAR Web Site

Forty two percent of new homebuyers use the Internet as a source of information about their home purchase. Because of this, it is important that ENERGY STAR and its partners increase our presence on the web. Beginning in January 2002, we are asking partners who wish to maintain their hot link from the ENERGY STAR Web site to incorporate ENERGY STAR information on their own Web sites. The link to partners' sites is established when a partner signs the partnership agreement and provides us with a Web address. Under the new policy, partners must display the ENERGY STAR logo, make reference to ENERGY STAR's Web site and provide information about their participation in the ENERGY STAR program. We do not require that partners link back to the ENERGY STAR Web site, but partners have that option using the ENERGY STAR logo as a link icon. Those partners who do not wish to comply with this policy will continue to be listed on the ENERGY STAR Web site, but will not have a direct link to their site. You can find the web linking policy at www.energystar.gov under "For Partners," under the bullhorn icon. If you have questions concerning the policy or would like to work with ENERGY STAR to develop customized information, please contact your account manager.

Updates to the Web Site Locator Map

The program's locator map (from www.energystar.gov, click on Find Labeled Homes), is designed to help consumers find ENERGY STAR labeled homes in their communities and to assist building industry professionals in working together. Several of our partners have asked us to update their listing on the locator map to make it easier for others to find them. For example, a builder may wish to listed in Houston Texas, rather than Sugar Land where their corporate offices are.

If, after looking at your listing on the Web site, you would like to change your metro/service area, please e-mail Jesse Montero at montero.jesse@epa.gov. We have also updated our partnership agreement to allow new partners to specify a metro area at the time that they sign on with the program.



For More Information...

ENERGY STAR Hotline
1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937)

ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes
501 3rd Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

<http://www.energystar.gov/homes>